



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLAY CENTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Topeka, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Craig L. Nickels**, 49, Clay Center, Kan., has pleaded guilty to one count of possession of child pornography and one count seeking the forfeiture of the computer equipment on which it was stored. Nickels pleaded guilty Jan. 10 before U.S. District Court Judge Julie Robinson.

Nickels was indicted July 14, 2004 on a charge of possessing on Feb. 3, 2004, more than 600 images of child pornography including pictures of prepubescent minors under the age of 12. Sentencing is set for 9 a.m. April 11, 2005, before Judge Robinson. He faces a maximum penalty of not less than 10 years in federal prison and not more than 20 years.

Melgren commended the work of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Tanya Treadway, who is prosecuting.